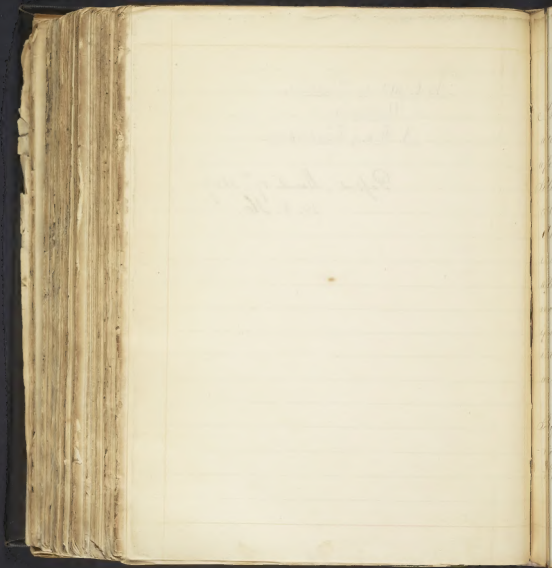


An Essay on Mutilis.

Written by

A. H. of Pennsylvania.

Passed March 17th 1827
W. L. H.



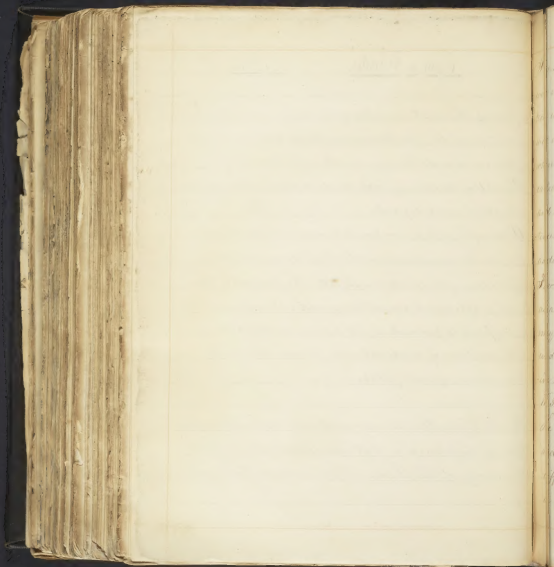
Essay on Pleuritis.

By J. B. R.

Among the vast number of diseases to which the attention of the practitioner is daily called, that affection so well known by the appellation of Pleuritis, certainly demands a large share of our attention and regard.

Although, when compared to many other diseases, it may be considered in the light of an ordinary affection, yet it often subjects the patient to the most unpleasant sensations, and not unfrequently, if suffered to proceed in its course, without the timely interposition of medical aid, proves extremely dangerous, if not fatal.

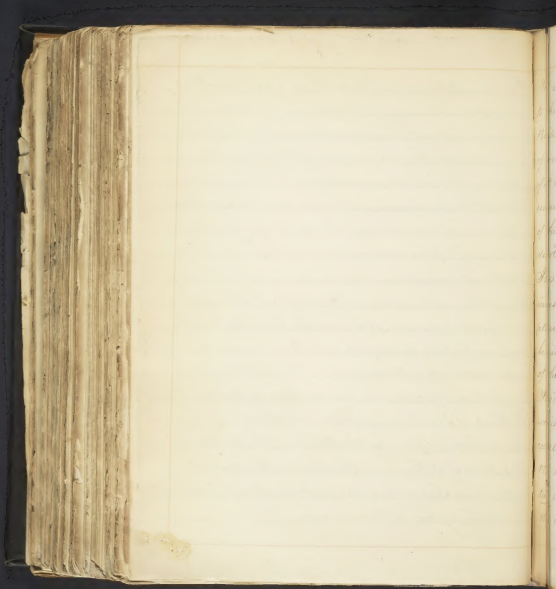
By the term Pleuritis we understand an inflammation of the pleura or that membrane which lines the cavity of the thorax, and envelops the lungs.



By some of the older writers the diseases of the chest were named according to the part in which the affection was supposed to be seated, thus when the pleura was inflamed, the disease was called Pleuritis, when the inflammation was seated in the lungs, they called it Pneumonia, when in the heart, cordis, and even inflammation of the diaphragm, mediastinum, and pericardium, were by them considered as distinct diseases.

Now of the modern writers, however, treat Pleuritis as a distinct disease, it is generally believed, that it may very properly be classed with Pneumonia, under the head of Pneumonia. This method of classing the two affections has been adopted by Cullen, H. Philip of Edinburgh, and various others.

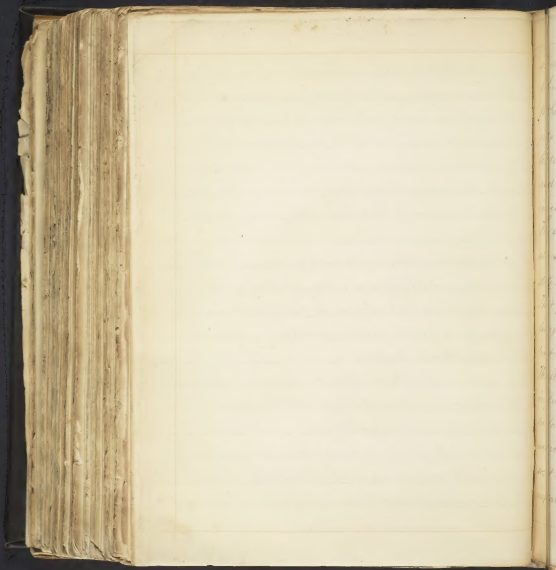
The method adopted, by the Professors of the Institutes and Practice of Physic in this University, does not differ from that of the writers just mentioned, except in attaching less to Pneumonia.



It is not my intention, however, to extend my views to the consideration of that affection denominated Pneumonia, well knowing that, being a disease of considerable importance, a proper investigation of it requires a much greater length of time and research, than my present engagements in the study of the great science of Medicine, will permit me to devote to it.

It is my design, therefore, to confine myself to the investigation of Pleuritis, a inflammation of the pleura mto, and before I proceed, perhaps it may not be improper to give a concise anatomical description of this membrane itself.

It is a thin, semitransparent, serous membrane which lines the internal surface of the ribs, intercostal muscles, and diaphragm; and envelops the lungs. It is very properly represented as forming two distinct sacs, one on each side of the thorax. The contiguous faces of these sacs form a septum,

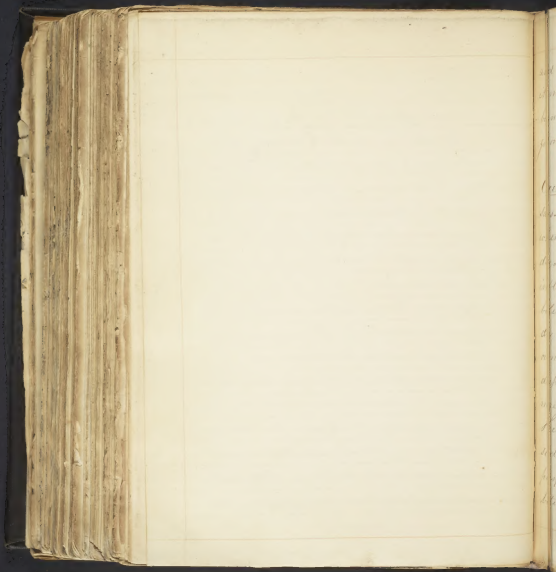


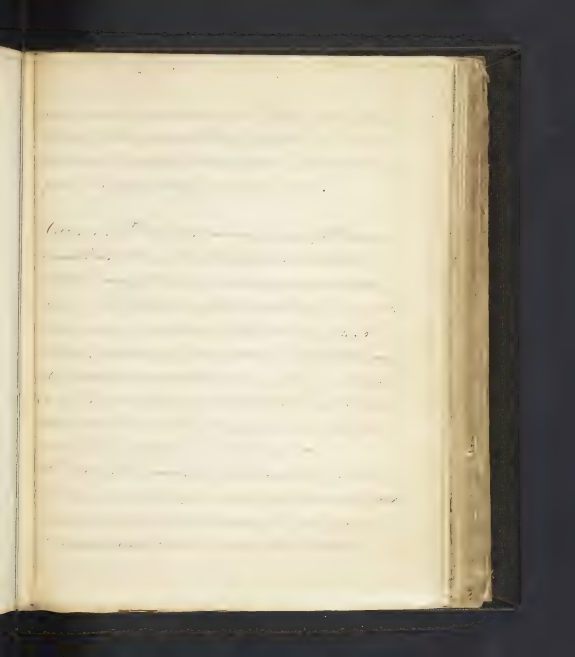
which extends from the sternum before to the spine behind, and from the superior part of the thorax above to the diaphragm below. — This septum is divided into three Mediastina which are denominated Anterior, Posterior, and Superior. Between the Anterior and Posterior Mediastina, is situated the Heart invested by its Pericardium.

The Pleura is connected to the parts to which it is attached by short cellular substance. In the healthy state it has no red vessels.

That portion of the Pleura which is attached to the lungs is denominated Pleura Pulmonalis, and that part which lines the ribs Pleura Costalis.

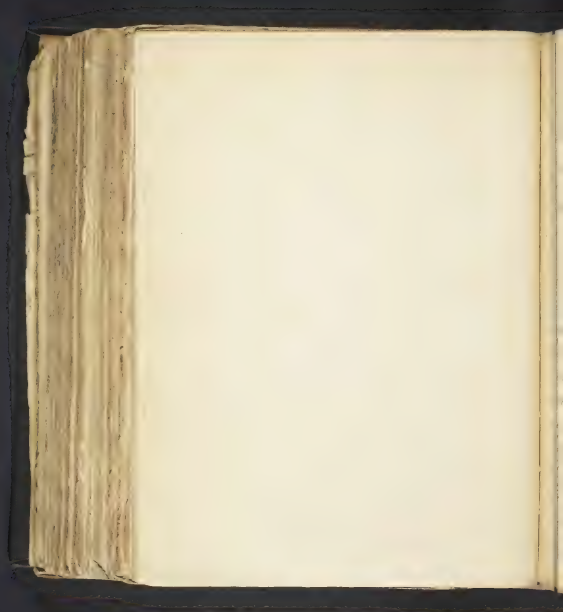
The Pleura may be affected partially, or the morbid influence may be extended throughout its whole surface, generally, however it is, in the commencement of the disease, partially affected, and when it is commonly in the right side, but if the inflammation is violent and progresses rapidly,

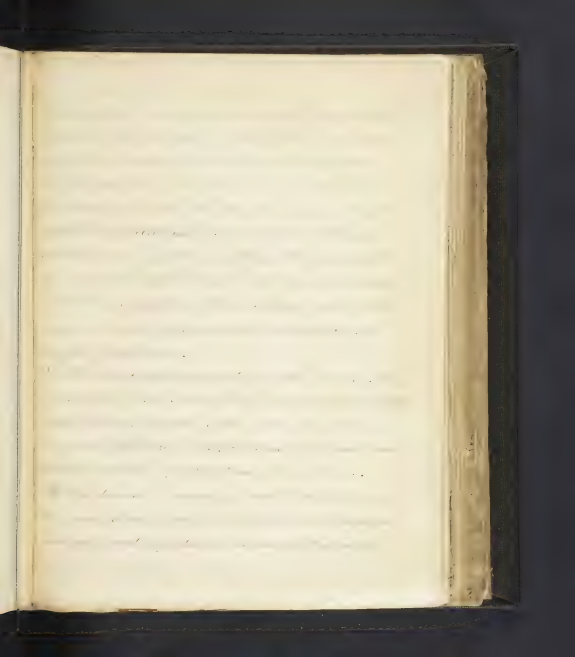














Life...







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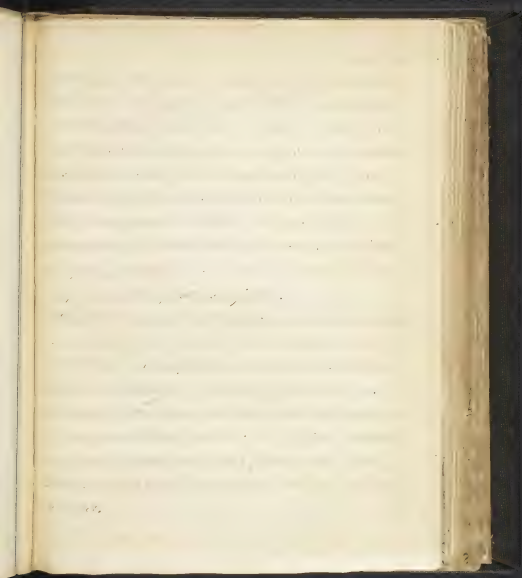












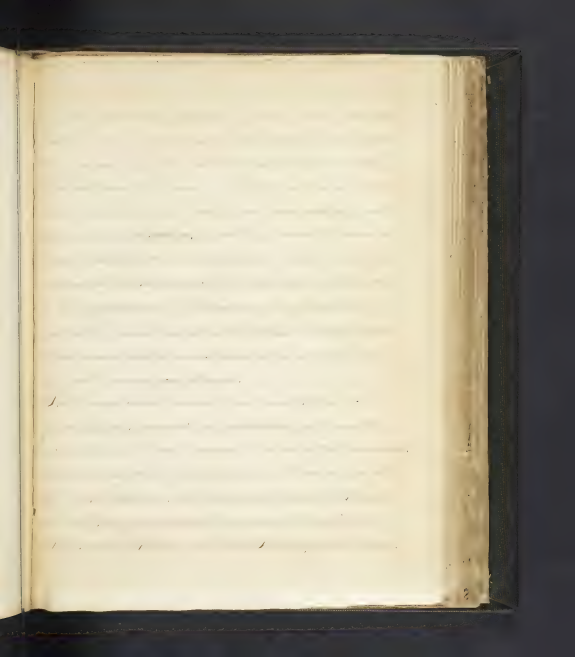






















should be warmly clothed, and exposure of every kind particularly that to the night air, should be very carefully avoided.

I have now laid down, agreeably to my knowledge, that which appears to me to be the most proper method of treating this disease, which, in all its stages, should be regulated according to the violence and other circumstances of the case.

I cannot conclude my Essay on Pleuritis, without soliciting a liberal share of indulgence for the many imperfections, — and I should do injustice to my feelings, were I not to return my sincere thanks to the Illustrations Medical Professors of the University of Pennsylvania, for the very useful information derived from their Lectures, which will ever be cherished as my most valuable acquisition.

C. Mc. Chesnut Hill.

